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WIOA WORDS

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The first 9 Live Days on WIOA's virtual conference and exhibition platform **Virtual Water** are now complete. Feedback from many first time users is that it is amazing how interactive the platform is, and how much useful information and content is available. We hope all WIOA Members will login and visit the platform soon. If you have missed any of the live presentations, you can still go back and view them in your own time in the On-Demand section in the auditorium. The technical program for the remaining Live Days can be viewed at <https://wioaconferences.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Virtual-Water-Program.pdf>

With the support of WSAA, VicWater and Coliban Water, WIOA has now made access to the Virtual Water Platform free for everyone in the water industry from Day 9 onwards, This is to ensure that everyone can gain access to the Water Industry Safety Event (WISE) to be held on Day 11 on 28 October. Members and water industry people can register at <https://www.virtualwater.com.au/en/registration> using your email to gain access. You then set your own password and you are good to login whenever it suits you.

The exhibition hall looks amazing with 50 Corporate Members showcasing their latest in products and services to the water industry in the interactive 3D environment. It is vitally important that all our Members and water industry colleagues login and support all our Corporate members who are participating in the expo.

AROUND THE TRAPS

The WIOA Committee has confirmed that the 2021 Individual Membership fees will increase to \$40 and the Corporate Membership fee will increase to \$300 (both GST included). The financial impact of COVID-19 on WIOA has been dramatic with all events cancelled in 2020. Conferences and events have been the main source of income for WIOA for many years and have subsidised the annual membership fees, allowing us to keep them low. The modest increase in fees is necessary to help keep the organisation sustainable. Invoices will be sent to all Members shortly, with payment due on 1 January 2021.



The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) has launched the **Transitioning the Water Industry with the Circular Economy** paper to help guide water utilities to unlock the circular economy to better manage resources, make and use products and to regenerate natural systems. It's hard to find a more circular business than water. All water on Earth is used and reused in an endless cycle. The paper can be downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/y3ypncjl>

A water documentary **Brave Blue World** will be available to watch on Netflix on 21 October 2020. Narrated by Liam Neeson and featuring actors and activists Matt Damon and Jaden Smith, Brave Blue World is a not-for-profit foundation focused on providing a platform for scientific educational storytelling and public engagement. The foundation was created to inspire a shift in thinking and solve water challenges globally. The documentary shows the scale and urgency of the global water crisis and the many pioneering solutions. The message is that if we respond to the calls to action highlighted in the film, we will solve water in our lifetime.



The new Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications has released a consultation paper on proposed amendments to the **Code of Practice underpinning the Telco powers and immunities**. It covers a number of the key items that the water industry has been looking to have addressed, such as good structural reviews prior to implementation, and moving Telcos onto monopolies etc. It is calling for costs and benefits. WSAA is leading a project to gather as much cost data as possible from water utilities to build on previous submissions. Information on the project is available at <https://bit.ly/2RsJRV5> and water utilities can forward any information to Greg Ryan at WSAA - greg.ryan@wsaa.asn.au



The locations for WIOA's 2021 conferences have been confirmed, subject of course to the ongoing situation relating to COVID-19 and any health based restrictions in each State. The **NSW** Conference will be held at the **Tamworth** Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre in the week of **22 to 26 March 2021**. The **Queensland** Conference will be held in the week of **31 May to 4 June 2021**. The **South Australian** Conference will be held at the Murray Bridge Race Club in the week of **3 to 5 August 2021**. The **Victorian** Conference will be held at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre in the week of **30 August to 3 September 2021**.



The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is pleased with the support from the community for the Long Run initiative, having nearly reached their target of \$1.5M. There are still opportunities to donate to the Long Run at <https://www.thelongrun.org.au/> The Foundation recently brought together experts from New York, Vancouver, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth to talk about surviving prostate cancer. The recording of the webinar is available to view at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-RvX_nbza4&t=222s



More than **eight people die by suicide** in Australia each day. Research shows that those experiencing the highest levels of distress are least likely to seek support, often out of a fear of burdening others. On World Suicide Prevention Day, Beyond Blue launched a campaign that shares the stories of eight people who found a way through their suicidal thoughts. Each story features the powerful message that suicidal thoughts and feelings can pass, and that seeking support is a crucial step towards recovery. Hear survivors' powerful stories and access support and resources at <https://tinyurl.com/yyk9ftm8>



Well done to Lee Marshall from Central Highlands Water for winning the **WIOA AFL footy tipping competition** on 116. Having led the entire country at one stage, Lee faded in the last few weeks to finish 43rd overall. Second was Manfred Glombowski from Thermo Fisher on 106, with Brett Shillig also on 106, coming in third. In the **WIOA NRL footy tipping competition**, with just the Grand Final to be played, James Blannin and George Wall are tied in the lead on 126, two clear of Brett Shillig on 124 in third spot. Good luck for the last game.

WIOA AWARDS 2020

Congratulations to Lower Murray Water and the operators at the Mildura WTP for winning the **Ixom 2020 Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria** competition. Staged on the Virtual Water platform on 14 October, it was a very close competition with Lower Murray Water victorious over the other finalists in Gippsland Water and Westernport Water. Lower Murray Water will now represent Victoria in the national competition.

With the cancellation of all the face to face events in 2020, WIOA has moved the presentation of a number of national and State based Awards to the Virtual Water platform. Our congratulations are extended to the following winners recently announced:

- **Dion Bull** from Gippsland Water - **Victorian Operator of the Year**, sponsored by **AWA Vic Branch**
- **Michael Tulloch** from Gippsland Water – **Vic Young Operator of the Year**, sponsored by **IWA Victoria**
- **Spirit of Australia Awards** in each State, sponsored by **TRILITY**
 - **Bill Collie** (Urban Utilities) – **Queensland**
 - **Jill Busch** (Aqualift Project Delivery) – **NSW/ACT**
 - **David Dickson** (North East Water) – **Victoria**
 - **Damien Lavelle** (TasWater) – **Tasmania**
 - **Matt Gulliver** (TRILITY) – **South Australia**
 - **Jessica Wilson** (Water Corporation) – **Western Australia**
 - **Jethro Laidlaw** (Power & Water) – **Northern Territory**



With the fantastic support of sponsor IXOM, the **Best Tasting Tap Water competition** has continued with the winners of the six State based competitions now determined. They will now compete against one another in the Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition to be held on the Virtual Water platform on 21 October, coinciding with National Water Week. Our congratulations and best of luck are extended to all the winners:

- **Victoria** - Lower Murray Water – **Mildura WTP**
- **NSW** – Port Macquarie Hastings Council - **Wauchope WTP**
- **South Australia** – SA Water – **Woolpunda WTP**
- **Tasmania** – TRILITY / TasWater – **Rossarden WTP**
- **Western Australia** – Water Corporation – **Yalgoo WTP**
- **Queensland** – Livingstone Shire Council – **Woodbury WTP**

The winner of the national competition will go on to represent Australia in the International Water Taste Test competition in the USA in February 2021.



Applications are being accepted for the **Problem Accepted, Solution Supplied (PASS) Award**. The winner will receive an all-expenses paid opportunity to join the WIOA tour to NZ in May 2021 to the value of over \$2,500. Sponsored by Aqualift Project Delivery, applications close at the end of February 2021. Entry forms are on the website at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/pass-award/>

EVENTS

The program for the **Water Industry Safety Event (WISE)** to be held online in the Virtual Water platform on 28 October is now available. The event is aimed at all personnel involved in safety in the water industry, and particularly HSR's from all organisations. There are two Keynote presentations – one from WSAA on the relaunch of the Mental Health and Wellbeing framework and the other by Tara Okan from New Zealand relating to a wastewater infection. The remainder of the program includes presentations relating directly to safety issues in operational activities.



The **Call for Papers** for the **2021 WIOA NSW Operations Conference** will close on Friday 20 November. Share your experience with other operational staff by presenting either a platform or poster paper in Tamworth. Abstract submission details are available at <http://wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers/>

WIOA is now seeking Expressions of Interest from Corporate Members in relation to sponsorship opportunities for our **2021 WIOA Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibitions**. Some of our normal sponsorship categories such as Dinners, are a little uncertain at this stage, pending resolution of COVID safe requirements for each site. There will be new opportunities though such as hand sanitiser stations. To discuss how your business can support WIOA and gain valuable exposure to the operational staff who attend these events, please contact Craig at the WIOA office – craig@wioa.org.au



The International Water Centre's live streamed event **Achieving Water Security in a Changing World** will be held on Thursday 22 October from 4.00-5.30pm AEDT online via Microsoft Teams. Join Associate Professor Brian McIntosh, Education Director for Griffith's International WaterCentre as he leads a panel discussion on the challenges to achieving water security and how we might meet them. The event will examine challenges and strategies broadly then focus on the role of professional learning as a way to build knowledge, skills and ultimately the capacity to respond. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yxta9tsv>

TRAINING COURSES

The **IWES Short Courses** rescheduled to 23-27 November 2020 have now gone completely online and many of the course spots have sold out already. The new digital schedule is spread over 3 hour sessions instead of full days, so you can get your training in and still keep on top of your regular work. For more information on the range of courses or to register, visit <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gold-coast-2020/>



The **Australian Water School's** newest release of on-demand courses allow participants to take control of their own learning. The newest course covering **Dam Breach Modelling with HEC-RAS** commences on 29 October. The course will be delivered as three sessions of two hours each over three consecutive weeks. For immediate access to an AWS on-demand course, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3wus452>



Simmonds & Bristow has released new dates for their **Water Industry Virtual Training**. A range of Diploma and Certificate III units are available with classes held on 26 & 27 October, and during November. Participating in online training in the virtual classroom provides benefits including studying in a group instead of alone, fast tracking assignments with coaching, and completion of final work ready assessments remotely via phone or virtual meeting. More information at <https://www.simmondsbristow.com.au/our-services/virtual-training/>



AMS Training & Solutions invites enquiries about online training and instructor led live online training. Live training gives participants opportunity to engage with the trainer in a small virtual classroom. Visit their website - www.amsts.com.au - for more details. AMS offers David H Paul RO Specialist Training, recognised by the IDA Academy and the most comprehensive RO training worldwide. Email them to be waitlisted for future events.

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Simmonds and Bristow offers a relief water & wastewater operator service – anywhere; anytime; any duration. All staff are skilled and experienced, are a minimum of Certificate III qualified, and can be deployed to your site with 24 hours notice. Visit the S&B website at <https://tinyurl.com/y68h4535> for more details.



Hunter H2O will help to improve health and sanitation in Samoa, after being awarded a contract to undertake a feasibility study to improve the flood resilience of Apia's existing sewage and wastewater systems. This project win highlights Hunter H2O's commitment to supporting Pacific Nations towards more sustainable water solutions and meets the goals outlined in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 6.

POSITIONS VACANT - For information on these positions visit <http://wioa.org.au/positions-vacant/>

The positions vacant section of our website currently has a number of positions for **Treatment Plant Operators, a number of Traineeships and a District Manager**. Positions are currently being advertised seeking applicants for jobs in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. To utilise this FREE job advertisement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

COMING EVENTS 2020

- 21 October **Ixom Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia Competition**, online - Virtual Water Day 10
- 28 October **3rd Water Industry Safety Event (WISE)**, online - Virtual Water Day 11
- 20 November **NSW Call for Papers**, applications Close

2021 EVENTS

- 28 February **PASS Award**, applications close
- 24 & 25 March **14th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth
- 2 & 3 June **45th WIOA QLD Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**
- 4 & 5 August **3rd WIOA SA Water Industry Operations Conference & Expo**, Murray Bridge
- 1 & 2 September **83rd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo



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KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE. If your phone number, mailing address or email address has changed please email Ann your new details (ann@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.